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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 7 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, issued on 5 June 2008, regarding the decree of the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 4 June 2008 concerning Russian-Ukrainian relations (see annex).

I kindly ask you to circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 12, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 7 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in connection with the resolution on the state of Russian-Ukrainian relations adopted by the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 4 June 2008.

In connection with approval of the resolution on the state of Russian-Ukrainian relations by the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 4 June 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine states that Ukraine develops good-neighbourly relations with the Russian Federation, consistently supports equitable partnership development between the two countries and constructive settlement of all disputable problems by means of dialogue and makes efforts to achieve positive results.

Contrary to such approach, the said resolution of the State Duma actually contains categorical demands on Ukraine and is nothing else than an attempt of unconcealed pressure towards our State and is inadmissible for the Ukrainian party.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine proceeds from the fact that the Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation remains a cornerstone of mutually beneficial relations between the two countries. It equally corresponds to the interests of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Therefore, Ukraine will not initiate its denunciation.

The proposals of the State Duma of the Russian Federation to withdraw from the Agreement are a short-sighted and irresponsible step. It is obvious that it will never be supported by the international community because it would cause serious damage to security and stability on the continent and the entire complex of Ukrainian-Russian relations.